ASTON

NEWS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS (useful numbers)

If your club or organisation is not listed here and you would like to be included, then please let me know on 01787 210354 or email bronwenstacey@btinternet.com

Allotments (sjking@btinternet.com)	Stephen King	01787 210932
Assington Books, Village Hall (see post office for times)	Michelle Bourner	07954 221773
Assington Farmshop	Maxine Gardiner	01787 211610
Assington Post Office, Village Hall	Mon 1.30-3.30,	Wed 9-12
Assington Village Charity, Sec	Nettie Osman	07957 394780
Boxford CEVC Primary School (office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk)	Head: Mrs J Davies	01787 210332
Brownies, Boxford	Moira Grant	01787 211513
Church, Children's activities	Michelle Bourner	07954 221773
Church - Organist	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
Church - Reader	Dr John Symons	01787 211534
Church - Secretary	Emily Cartlidge	07976724266
Church - Treasurer	Ian Clark	01787 211133
Churchwarden	Roger Britcher	01787 211021
Churchwarden	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
County Councillor (james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk)	James Finch	01473 264993
District Councillor (Assington)	Lee Parker	01787 376073
Doctors surgery – Sudbury	Hardwicke House	01787 310000
Doctors surgery – Bures	Bures	01787 227529
Fleece Jazz, Stoke by Nayland Hotel - www.fleecejazz.org.uk	Stoke by Nayland	01787 211865
Horticultural Society	Bryn Hurren	01787 210854
Leavenheath Cinema	Lesley or Ken	01206 262505/ 01206 263266
Member of Parliament (james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk)	James Cartlidge	020 7219 4875
Parish Council	Simon Thorogood	01787 227400
bronwenstacey@btinternet.com	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
john@moorsfarm.com	John Symons	01787 211534
rosemarysymonds42@gmail.com	Rose Symonds	01787 229100
helen.wallace12@btinternet.com	Helen Wallace	01787 211162
i.jordan741@btinternet.com	Ian Jordan	
andrewpeterhill@hotmail.com	Andrew Hill	
Parish Council - Clerk, (assingtonpc@yahoo.com)	Jane Hatton	01787 468634
Polstead Films – www.http://polstead.onesuffolk.net/films	Sue Wigglesworth	01787 210029
Pub – The Shoulder of Mutton	Gavin & Aaron	01787 210334
Vicar (steve.morley@btinternet.com)	Steve Morley	01787 227407
Village Hall – Bookings (louisa@moorsfarm.com)	Louisa Symons	01787 211534
Village Hall - Caretaker	Paul Battle	07473 933320
Womens Institute, Boxford (annie-phillips@hotmail.co.uk)	Annie Phillips	01787 211729

The ASSINGTON NEWS

Cover photograph: by Bronwen Stacey

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CHRISTMAS REVIEW

A group of children had fun helping to decorate the huge Christmas Tree, which was kindly donated to the church.

The helpers ensured that the huge selection and number of beautiful baubles of every size, shape and colour were soon hanging in multiple necklaces across the boughs - it was a spectacular sight which was much admired by everyone who attended the Carols By Candlelight Service the following week.
Thank you to all the little (and not so little) helpers!

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people who gave their support making it possible for Assington to have a Christmas tree in the village:- Firstly David and Karen Wiles for making the suggestion that we should 'add a bit of Sparkle' to The Street, David for all his hard work erecting the tree and for managing to keep the lights working against all the odds with strong winds and heavy rain. Also Mike Townrow (Assington Fruits) for supplying the tree, Assington Parish Council for agreeing to fund the project at short notice, and especially the students of the Ryes College for their very creative hand made decorations.

Thank you,

Wishing you all Happy New Year,

From Rose

LIVING ADVENT CALENDAR WINDOWS

For the second year, many residents joined in the Village Living Advent Calendar. Organised and co-ordinated by Emily, one window was 'revealed ' every day from 1st December until the big day. The windows showed to advantage after dark, when the light shining from behind showed the scene to advantage. There were some truly artistic creations - Father Christmas travelling through the the skies on his reindeer-driven sleigh; the snowman; delightful snow-scenes. Well done to all those who participated, (at a time when everyone has so much to do already), and thank you for adding another aspect of anticipation and fun for all to see.

Assington Village Advent Calendar

From Emily Cartlidge

A huge thank you to everyone who decorated a window for the village Advent Calendar. There were some beautiful windows on display again this year. I know that it has not just been the children who have been out spotting which window was 'opening' each day! Once again Assington has come up trumps and we had windows decorated all up and down the Street and further afield – including the pub and my own effort in the bus stop.

You've got ten months to prepare for the next one – get your thinking caps on!

VILLAGE CAROL SINGING FOR CHARITY

On Wednesday 18 December

On the not-entirely dry evening of 18 December a group of villagers of all ages set off with carol sheets and lanterns to regale residents along The Street with a medley of carols. Great fun was had by all, as the children shook the collecting boxes invitingly at the doors.

Dr John Symons reports:

Thanks to the generosity of the villagers (those we reached) and the fortitude of the carollers I have been able to send a cheque for **£240 to Shelte**r.

……I still have a 100 yen coin and a token with 'K' on it left over !
Many, many thanks to everyone.

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EXCERPTS FROM A PRIVATE AUTOBIOGRAPHY of MAJOR HENRY O TOMKINS (1894 - ?1980) of Assington and The Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

From Bob Cowlin

Introduction

I was recently given a manuscript to read, written by a very distant relative of my wife. It is the auto biography of Henry Tomkins who lived in Assington as a boy around 1900. The manuscript is closely typed, 120 pages long, written in about 1980. I don't think it has ever been published but the first part gives a very vivid account of growing up in Assington about 120 years ago.

The following is a summary of the first 30 pages or so, before Henry joined the army aged 14. (It will be serialised in future editions Ed). Thereafter Henry continued to have an interesting life. After 18 months, he deserted with 2 others because they were bullied by older soldiers. He was punished but served right through the First World War being wounded three times and ended up with the rank of Major.

You can borrow the original manuscript but it gets rather indistinct in the middle as the typewriter ribbon needed replacing.

Henry lived in the village as a child between about 1895 and 1908, when he joined the army at the age of 14. Excerpts from his accounts will be printed over the coming months:

PART ONE

"When one is approaching 84, it is rather hard that he should be bullied by his family to sit down and write as concise a history of the family as he can gather by research from stories handed down from generation to generation and from his own knowledge. Over the years, one's memories grow a bit dim and he is apt to forget much that would interest younger members of the family. At the moment they probably look upon me as a benign old codger with barely enough strength to toddle down to the pub.

Before my mind had begun to register and retain the movements of events, we moved to the village of Assington. The correct postal address in those days was 'Assington, Boxford, Colchester'. Dad had secured a post as Relieving Officer to the Sudbury Board of Guardians. His duties related to the administration of the Poor Law Acts and Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths covering the area of Little and Great Waldingfield, Acton, Newton, Assington, Leavenheath, Stoke, Nayland, Bures, Higham, Alpheton, Lamarsh and Wormingford. He was required to provide his own method of transport, reside as nearly as possible in the centre of his area, visit each village once a week and be on call 24 hours of the day. Motor cars were in their infancy and the favourite method of travel was by horse and trap.

Therefore in his hunt for accommodation, he had to take that into consideration for not only had he to provide for his growing family, but stabling as well. To find a vacant house large enough to take in a family of seven was, even in those days, rather a tall order. However he came across an unoccupied farmhouse known as Aveley Hall in Assington which seemed to answer his purpose as it had several outbuildings.

In order to help Mother with the task of household chores and the family, Dad was able to get a dear old soul out of the Workhouse in Sudbury and install her as maid of all work, a job she took over with the greatest of efficiency. I do remember her for she was known by us all as 'Early'. She died somewhere about 1900 and her loss was a great blow to Mother. Before we had been in residence at Aveley Hall for very long, Dad found how inconvenient it was, situated at the bottom of a very narrow lane, right on the outskirts of the village and at least a mile from the pub and even that was by taking a short cut across a field.

Although that was not the main cause, the place was so remote that people who wanted to see him, had to make that unpleasant journey.

It so happened that a fairly large nine roomed house in the village Street became vacant owing to the death of the occupier. This house was known as The Hollies and had stabling, a coach house and a paddock. We thereupon moved in.

The Hollies as it is today

My first real knowledge of the world came when I was at the bottom of the garden at The Hollies. The village school was just across the road and I used to envy the other children when I saw them going in. Then I went missing but not for very long, because I was discovered in the Infants Class having admitted myself.

I suppose I was about three years old then and it was decided to leave me alone for fear of another squalling bout. There were only about 20 infants and Lizzie Bell was a motherly old soul. She taught us to spell simple words and to count. We used to recite, parrot fashion, up to the three or four times table, but above all, she taught us how to behave.We played, did our lessons on slates which was regarded even then as most unhygienic, because when the lesson had been seen and passed, we would lick the slates clean and start over again.

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FARMING ARTICLE by Jeff Stacey

As always nature is playing games with the farmers, with the wet weather making it "diabolical" to lift the sugar beet. Despite the huge piles of beet some of you may have seen briefly at the side of the A134, the harvest is well behind schedule. With only about a month to go before the factory at Bury St Edmunds closes for the season, the pressure is on.

The wet weather at the wrong time last year also has a long term knock on effect as there was far less wheat sown. This will mean that there will be a shortage of seed available to sow this autumn, all pointing towards a wheat shortage. The shortfall will have to be imported, so let us hope Boris is able to negotiate some good deals on trade tariffs.

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The *GROUP PHOTO OF THE BURES BOOKIES*

Following Ellie's article in the December edition of this magazine, telling us about the 'Bures Bookies' Bookgroup, she has provided us with a photo, and a

BOOK REVIEW :

'Land of the Living'
by
Georgina Harding

This is the fifth novel by Georgina Harding who lives at Little Horkesley. The Bures Bookies have read and enjoyed all her novels, many of which have met with critical acclaim. This latest offering did not disappoint us. It is the story of a soldier, Charlie and his experiences in the jungles of Northern India during World War 2. Returning home to his farm in Norfolk and re-united with his new wife he attempts to tell her about the horrors he has gone through. The contrast between the physically basic yet spiritually rich existence of the Head Hunting tribes of Nagaland and life on the farm is movingly described.

****

by Ellie Mead

PARISH CHURCH NEWS

Letter from the Revd Simon White,
Associate Priest
Bures with Assington and Little Cornard

Hello,

As I write this, I am also planning for the start of Lent which begins with Ash Wednesday on 26th February this year. Pancakes are popular in our house all year round but for those who like to mark Shrove Tuesday with them then you still have lots of time to gather the ingredients together.

So, is there a name for the time between Christmas and Lent? The answer as you may have guessed is yes but how many would know it's call Ordinary Time? Not very original or inspiring you might think and in some ways, you are right. Ordinary Time, means ordered or numbered time; this is a season of counted weeks. Even a month after the beginning of the year there is a sense of getting back to normality and I am still counting the weeks since returning to my day job. The days are still short and not so many people are out and about. Things are quieter but rather than watching the weeks count by perhaps this is a time to start getting out a bit more and seeing a few people.

Is there someone in the village who might appreciate a friendly visit? Perhaps someone who has recently moved into the village who hasn't met their neighbours yet? Someone who is feeling the absence of a loved one?

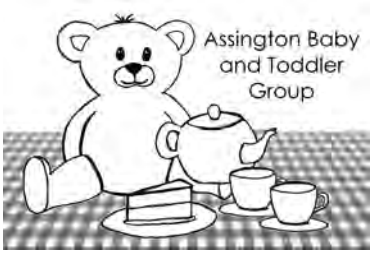
One of my favourite verses in the Bible is, "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it" (Hebrews 13:2). Whether you believe in angels or not, I think this verse challenges us to see the good in each other as Jesus sees in each of us.

Conversations are already starting about the Horticultural Show, the Church Fete, a mid-summer Bring & Share BBQ and other events so there will be opportunities to get more involved with village life and its hospitality as the days get longer and warmer.

"Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

Best wishes, **Simon**

Vicar:	Rev Steve Morley	227407
Reader:	Dr John Symons	211534
Associate Priest	Rev Simon White	07572 418555
Organist:	Bronwen Stacey	210354
Sec:	Emily Cartlidge	07976 724266
Treasurer:	Ian Clark	211133
Churchwardens:	Roger Britcher	211021
	Bronwen Stacey	210354



Mums, dads, grandparents, carers and childminders living in and around Assington ... bring your little ones to an accompanied babies and toddlers group in the lovely Village Hall. Held twice a month
from 9.30 - 11.00 am, at £3 per family.

Thursday 6th February
Thursday 27th February
Thursday 12th March
Thursday 26th March

We have toys and books for your babies and toddlers, a soft space for the babies to relax on and a big space for unstructured play for the older ones. There are healthy snacks for the little ones and a time for stories and songs too.

At the same time we want you to be able to enjoy a good cup of tea or coffee while you chat with friends and meet new people. See you there!

Do contact me, Revd Tricia Box, if are interested or would like to help: 01787 227528 or 07747 124592 triciajbox@gmail.com

Schedule of Services at Assington Church

Feb 2nd 10.30 Benefice Communion at **Bures**

Feb 9th 10.30 Holy Communion

Feb 16th 10.30 Family Service

Feb 23rd 10.30 Morning Worship

♪♪♪ ♪♪♪ ♪♪♪

The Catholic Church of Our Lady and St John, Sudbury

(on The Croft off Gregory Street).
Parish Priest: Father Peter Brett,
Tel: 01787 372703
Services: Saturday 5pm, Sunday 9.15am,
Tuesday 9.30am, Thursday 9.30am,
Confession: Saturday 10.30am and on request.

Bures Baptist Church

High Street, Bures, CO8 5JG
10.30am every Sunday
Youth Club on most Fridays during term time

Sudbury Quaker Meeting

Friars Street, Sudbury, 01787 371303
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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION 2019

A very big 'Thank You' to Freda and Jean, Linda and Ann, who braved the elements last November, to raise a tremendous £567 for the Poppy appeal - really terrific effort - there are some very generous people in our little village!

Our total area raised an amazing £4,742 - every penny of which will go to the support of our forces personnel, injured or mentally damaged by wars (past and present), fought in our defence.

Thank you, dear village, very much.

From Louisa Symons

NEWS FROM SESAW

Eavesdropping can be very confusing. I thought the volunteers were celebrating having perfect eyesight when they were talking about seeing in 20 20 last month. Mum explained this year marks the start of a new decade which inspires many resolutions like getting fit - as she eyed my bulging tummy!

If you want to shed those extra festive pounds don't forget the Nayland 10K takes place on 5th July. SESAW is one of the beneficiaries of this family friendly day and dogs are welcome as shown in the photo taken by Brian Sanders. The pooch is proudly wearing one of the wood medals specially designed for last year's entrants.. The website will be launched soon for anyone wishing to register at: https://www.nayland10k.co.uk/

A big thank you to the Colchester Asda for donating £500 raised by the store's Green Token Scheme. This will help keep the animals keeping nice and warm whilst they wait for a new home together including a mother and daughter pair of Staffies.

I may not have 20 20 vision but there's nothing wrong with my sense of smell which tells me dinner is nearly ready. Time to see what's cooking in the kitchen for me, Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua.

Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare, Reg.Charity No.1124029, Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP. Tel: 01787 210888 www.sesaw.co.uk Usually open 10-1pm Thurs-Sunday but please check before visiting

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PLAY ALERT

Save the date: 29 May 2020

I have booked the 'Eastern Angles' Theatre Company to come to our Village Hall on **Friday 29th May 2020**. They will be presenting a new play called 'Red Skies' - (more info later, nearer the date).

Please make a note of the date and come and enjoy a really good evening (with wine!).

…….Hope to see you there.

From Louisa Symons

BOXFORD SCHOOL NEWS

By Callie Bradbury

On Friday 12th December it was Christmas dress down day so you could dress with something Christmasy. We were also having Christmas dinner on that day so it was double Christmas.

The faith councillors gave out a friendship trophy for the class with the best friendship. The winners were year…….. one. Who will be the winners next term?

The Year Five's had their Harry Potter day and I saw very different costumes (e.g. Hagrid, Malfoy (that was who I was), Professor Snape, Dobby, Ron and so on). We watched the PHILOSOPHER'S STONE film.

The whole school took part in a craft afternoon where we were in separate groups and we made different Christmas decorations (e.g. pom poms, mosaics, mini hats and so on). We hung them on the Christmas tree, it looked wonderful. Miss Hyde (the year three teacher and head of PSHE) prepared this afternoon for us, we are very grateful.

We also had our Christmas Carol service on the 12th December. Before the service had started the adults had mulled wine and we all had hot mince pies. Yum! The service started and Father Rob was leading it. We had 4 readers including David Talbot-Clarke, Emily Groom, Emily Rich and Dixie Cotrell. After the service we did the raffle draw.

I hope you all have had a Merry Christmas by the time you read this.

ASSINGTON RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

Bill Milner and Bob Cowlin

2016 TOTAL 599.5
2017 TOTAL 571
2018 TOTAL 559
2019 TOTAL 597

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2018	***mm***	***max***	***min***
JAN 18	60.5	11^{0}C	-3^{0}C
FEB 18	41	9^{0}C	-8^{0}C
MAR18	74	14^{0}C	-5^{0}C
APR 18	49.5	26.5^{0}C	+1^{0}C
MAY 18	38.5	27^{0}C	+0.5^{0}C
JUN 18	1.5	31^{0}C	+5^{0}C
JULY 18	19.5	36^{0}C	+10^{0}C
AUG 18	83	35^{0}C	+6^{0}C
SEP 18	29	25^{0}C	-0.5^{0}C
OCT 18	30.5	23^{0}C	-2^{0}C
NOV 18	75	13^{0}C	-4^{0}C
DEC 18	57	13^0	-5^{0}C

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2019	***mm***	***max***	***min***
JAN	23.5	9^{0}C	-8^{0}C
FEB	19.5	16^{0}C	-5^{0}C
MAR	44	19^{0}C	-3^{0}C
APR	18.5	24^{0}C	-3^{0}C
MAY	54	26^{0}C	+1^{0}C
JUNE	94.5	29^{0}C	5^{0}C
JULY	36.5	34.5^{0}C	6.5^{0}C
AUG	31.5	31^{0}C	7^{0}C
SEP	37.5	24^{0}C	2^{0}C
OCT	90	18 ^{0}C	-2^{0}C
NOV	69.5	12 ^{0}C	-5^{0}C
DEC	78	10 ^{0}C	-5^{0}C

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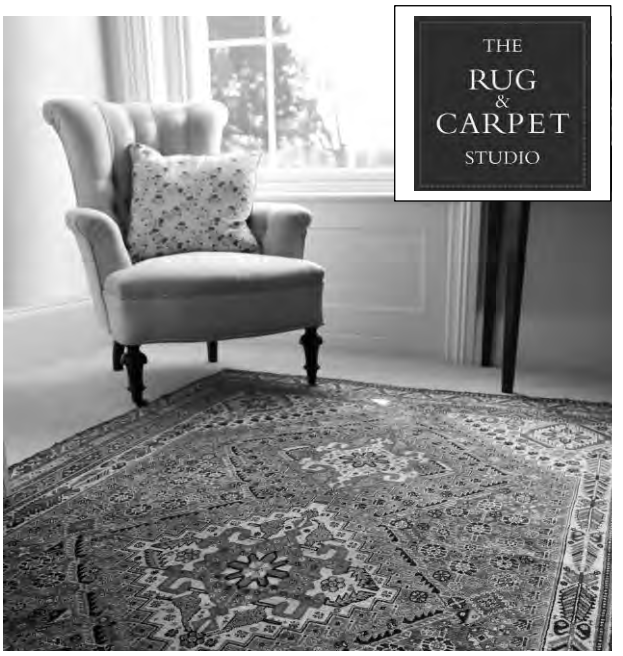

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LITTER PICK
by Ross Britcher

A few days after Christmas, Mum and I decided to do some litter picking, having noticed a great deal of rubbish in the village while walking the dogs. Given the extent of the litter, we limited our task to Church Hills. Along this stretch alone, we managed to fill three large bin bags. Notable finds included:

- Over 30 plastic bottles
- A plastic 2 pint bottle of very sour milk
- Several bags of dog mess
- Countless straws and wrappers
- Broken hub cap
- Car tyres

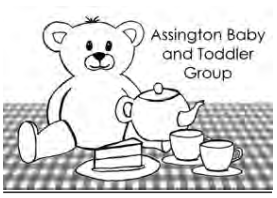
We also found a considerable amount of fast food packaging. We had to give up once we neared the A134 as there was simply too much rubbish to collect.

Sadly, this is all too common in all our villages today and as well as an eyesore, the rubbish is detrimental to wildlife and the wider environment. The thoughtless culprits will never be stopped, but as individuals we can at least try to cut down on our own waste, reconsider our throwaway culture and work together to pick litter – we were only collecting for one hour and it would be wonderful if a few more volunteers could spare a little time for this cause.

More nature less rubbish More nature less rubbish

Thanks to Noreen

Noreen has delivered The Assington News magazine to the Barracks Road area for the past few years. Many thanks to her for this service to the local community, as she now passes on the torch to someone else……..
and that "someone else' is Zoe, (Please see the opposite column) who has kindly stepped in to Noreen's vacated shoes.



Update on Assington Baby and Toddler Group

We had a really good turnout for our first session on 2nd January - lots of mums came with their little ones and several babies too.

Everybody was really friendly and relaxed and the children were a delight! If you're a new parent or have recently moved into the village, it's a great opportunity to meet others with pre-school children.

Huge thanks to the Trustees of the Assington Village Charity, who are being very supportive. The Hall is being let to us free of charge, which is wonderful.
Do encourage your friends and neighbours to come along.

Revd Tricia Box

WELCOME TO THE LAUGHTON FAMILY

We are Zoe, Tom, Evelyn (aged 7) and Fred Laughton (aged 5). We moved into Sara, Kevin and Martha Tatum's old house, Hill House on Barracks Road, in November. We were in Dedham for three years before but are now much nearer to the children's school in Nayland and lots of friends over this way which is great.

In no particular order our different interests are cooking, wildlife, trees, trail running, swimming, reading, Lego and dinosaurs! The children are very excited about the new playground.

We have had such a friendly welcome from everyone in Assington so far, thank you.

****

Church Cleaning
- help needed, please.

The cleaning of St Edmunds church has traditionally been undertaken by a group of volunteers from the village; some are regular churchgoers, others are not. However, one or two of our volunteers have had to give up in the past couple of years as they have either moved away from Assington or are no longer able to help.

If you are willing to help and can spare just a few hours, spread over 3-4 weeks, in one month each year **please call Val on 211133. Thank you.**

ASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The main matters of interest discussed during the Parish Council Meetings of 25/11/2019 and 6/1/2020

25 November 2019

■ **Public Forum**

Babergh District Councillor Lee Parker informed the council that due to the election in December, the executive function of BDC is put aside but the day to day function will continue. The proposed District Council name change will not happen. The free swim system during the summer holiday has been very successful and had been extended to the Autumn half term and will also take place during the Christmas holidays. There had been a well publicised fly tipping prosecution which will hopefully put off other people fly tipping. Cllr Stacey asked about the site visit which had been requested and BDC Parker confirmed that it had been granted but there was not yet a date. Cllr Hill asked about not getting a response from Jo Hobbs, Area Manager BDC on the planning queries he had and BDC Parker will follow this up.

County Councillor James Finch arrived at this time and updated the council on the fostering and adoption sessions being held locally, the young adults stay safe on Suffolk's road scheme, funding of central heating systems for those who find it challenging to afford their energy bills and the annual report which was launched in October. Cllr Thorogood raised the issue of Ryes College: children sitting in the road may lead to an accident and a child will be injured if action is not taken. It was agreed that the clerk would forward the photos which were sent to the College together with their response, to CCllr Finch who will take the evidence to Children's Services and if they do not have the authority to insist it becomes a secure facility it will need to be raised with the local MP.

The public meeting was closed.

■ **Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Jordan advised that they have a draft and hope to put it forward to BDC for their input before bringing it to the parish council in early January for a formal consultation. The meeting was agreed for Monday 6th January 2020 as it then has to have a six week consultation before the document will then go to BDC.

19/140 Routine Correspondence

- The email from Power for People was noted.
- The email from Mike and Lisa Townrow was discussed and it was agreed that the clerk would respond and advise that their email has been discussed and express that the council is sorry to hear about the issues which have arisen. The Parish Council will approach BDC on the best way to proceed but in the meantime would suggest that they do make a record of the movements.
- The email from Barclays Bank regarding the reduction in saving rates was noted.
- The email from Paul Gant SCC to confirm the meeting on Tuesday 3rd December was discussed and it was agreed that a street plan of the village would be required and a list of proposals.
- The email from Ryes College had already been discussed.
- The email regarding the Tree Preservation Order was noted.
- The email from Nick Thompson with agreed wording for The Thicks new signs were agreed.
- Since the issue of the agenda, emails had been received from a resident regarding the death of their cat, Lilly. They believe that Lilly was killed in the field next to The Thicks by a dog who was out of control and it was agreed that the council was very concerned by this information.

It was discussed and agreed to investigate what can be done with BDC and that the chair would respond to the resident and write a letter to all the commercial dog walkers to remind them most strongly that they must have their dogs under control at all times. The website will be checked to see if it does promote walking dogs and if this is the case it will be amended to promote walking only. It was felt appropriate to reiterate that all parish councillors are volunteers and that the parish council has no statutory powers over dog control on private land or over the parking issues raised by the resident. The parish council had already investigated the replacement of the signs through The Thicks, as the "No Cycling" signs which had previously been erected had been removed by vandals. New signage has very recently been agreed by the landowner. Everyone has the right to use the public footpath and to park on the highways as long as no entrances were being obstructed.

- Since the issue of the agenda, an email had been received from Andrew Alberry SCC regarding the lighting times of the street lights over the Christmas period and it was agreed that they should remain the same.
- Since the issue of the agenda, an email had been received from a resident to ask if the village could look more festive over the Christmas period. It was agreed that Cllr Symonds would investigate a tree to be placed outside the Village Hall and a budget of £100 was agreed.

■ **Clerk's Report**

It was agreed that nothing was outstanding from the Clerk's Report as Cllr Symonds had informed the developer of a suggested street name of Warners Rise and Cllr Symons was to investigate repairing the village hall notice board. illors reviewed the budget proposal in appendix D and Cllr Hill advised that the grant received of £8982 will probably be spent on the Neighbourhood Plan before the 31st March 2020.

■ **Planning**

Councillors reviewed the following Planning Applications:

◆ **DC/19/04835** – Replacement and conversion of garage to additional living space and internal works at Thatched Cottage, Dorking Tye, Assington and resolved to support the application.

◆ **DC/19/04756** – Erection of one dwelling and garage at Gedding Hall, Nayland Road, Assington and resolved to **object** to the application on the following grounds:

★ The site is over a mile away from the existing built up area boundary or the proposed new BUAB in the emerging local plan. From a planning policy perspective it must therefore be treated as an **isolated development in open countryside** and approval can only be granted if exceptional circumstances can be proved AND subject to a proven justifiable need for the housing (policy CS2 of Babergh Core Strategy 2014 and NPPF paragraph 79 is engaged).

- There are no exceptional circumstances justifying this application whatsoever and

indeed the application does not attempt to demonstrate that there are.

- There is no proven need and **the application provides no evidence to demonstrate one** .

★ Babergh's emerging joint local plan identifies a need for 38 properties in Assington parish between 2018 and 2036. There have already been 54 properties granted permission in 18 months, almost 50% more than the amount Babergh have stated to be needed in 18 years! In addition to these 54, the emerging neighbourhood plan is likely to allocate additional sites, in sustainable locations (which this application is clearly not in) to be developed in a graduated way with community support between now and 2036.

★ The emerging neighbourhood plan has obtained high quality evidence from both consultation events and a village-wide questionnaire returned by 52% of the adult population (http://assington.onesuffolk.net/assets/Neighbourhood-Plan/Consultations/April-19-Consultation -Boards-Final.pdf , slide 3), showing that:
92% and 87% of people, respectively, say the village needs 2 and 3 bedroom homes.
65% of people object to new houses of 4 bedrooms or above. This is supported by Assington's 2011 Census profile which shows the village has a disproportionately high proportion of large 4 and 5 bedroom houses.
98% of people say that new development should respect Assington's rural character and therefore not be built in open countryside.

★ Babergh's Core Strategy policy CS11 requires a site in hinterland villages to be:
- "A close functional relationship to the existing settlement". – *it is not even anywhere near the existing or proposed BUAB*
- "Well designed and appropriate in size/scale, layout and character to its setting and to the village" – *it clearly fails this test as it is a huge house in open countryside*
- "Adjacent to or well related to the existing pattern of development for that settlement" and; - *it is not – the site is over a mile from the village in open countryside*
- "Meets a proven need such as affordable housing or targeted market housing identified in an adopted community local plan/neighbourhood plan *" – application makes no attempt to do this.*

★ The applicant suggests that Babergh's five year land supply is not in place. This is not correct and as a result any overriding presumption in favour of development does not apply. Babergh's policies are therefore up to date and have full force in the determination of the application.

★ The property is on a narrow bend and has access onto a highway with poor visibility.

Licensed Paths, Footpaths and APC's Assets November 2019

It was agreed that the hedging along the road should be put on the next agenda as a quote will be required from David Gotts. David Gotts had mentioned to a resident that the field was being ploughed to the hedge but more information was required.

Meeting Dates for 2020
The councillors agreed the following meeting dates:

2020 January March May
July September November
Assington PC Meetings 27th
23rd Meeting and APM 25th Annual Meeting 27th
28th 30th

Question to the Chair
Cllr Stacey asked if there was agreement that the village newsletter should be available on the parish council website and this was agreed.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting date is the 27 January 2020 starting at 7.30pm and the special
meeting arranged to discuss the draft Neighbourhood Plan and any planning applications to be on the 6th January 2020.
The meeting closed at 9.55pm

APC Meeting on 6 January 2020

Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation
Cllr Stacey declared a personal and prejudicial interest in 20/00 as the neighbour of the property. She had requested dispensation and this had been approved to speak but not vote, as she had particular expertise and knowledge in the matter that may be useful to its consideration.

Public Forum
It was agreed that CCllr Finch would be able to give his report when he arrived.
The public meeting was closed.

Neighbourhood Plan
The draft plan will be discussed at the next meeting on the 27th January.

Routine Correspondence
A resident had emailed concerning the hedge along 1-4 Woodfields and it was agreed that the Clerk would respond to update the resident.

Clerk's Report
Clerks reported was noted and it was agreed that the Clerk would obtain a quote for the notice board.

Planning
The Councillors reviewed the following planning applications:

✦ **DC/19/05808** - Submission of details under the outline planning permission DC/18/05178 Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for up to 7 dwellings at Land at Assington Barns, The Street, Assington - and it was agreed that this should be considered alongside

✦ **DC/19/05807** - Submission of details under the outline planning permission DC/18/00687 Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for up to 8 dwellings at Land at Assington Barns, The Street, Assington - as one application and it was agreed to **object** to this application on the following points:

★ As the plans are numbered from 1 to 15 on the two plans, it should be treated as one development and should therefore have 35% affordable housing included within the two applications.

- ★ The emerging neighbourhood plan has obtained high quality evidence from consultation events and a village-wide questionnaire returned by 52% of the adult population which showed a need for 2 and 3 bedroom properties and clear opposition to more 4 bedroom properties.
- ★ There is not sufficient parking at each of the properties for visitors especially in the 3 bedroom properties and the concern is that this development will increase parking on the roads through the village
- ★ Strict control of light pollution should be a condition of any approval of reserved matters. This site was previously an orchard and the impact on wildlife such as bats and owls in the area should be considered. Three recently built properties adjacent to the site have been installed with "uplighters" around their external walls which are completely inappropriate to their rural setting and harmful to local wildlife.More screening is required around the boundary of the whole site to thicken the hedging, in particular on the southern boundary facing the village hall and towards Barracks Road.

- ✦ **DC/19/05831** - Change of use of existing restaurant and outbuilding to 5 dwellings with new vehicular access at The Case Restaurant, Further Street, Assington and in principal the councillors object to the conversion of a commercial property to residential and the loss of an amenity for the village; however, councillors resolved by a majority of 4 to 1 to support this application subject to the following changes being made and conditions being imposed (as per LP04, 13.20 of the Babergh Joint Local Plan 2019):

  - ★ As the proposed change to residential is outside the village BUAB and is a subdivision of the plot with 4 gardens overlooking the listed neighbouring property, effective screening (which was a condition to the granting of planning application B/12/00342/FUL/NC for the commercial building in 2012) should be established approximately half way between the buildings and the boundary. Given the lower level of the neighbouring property and close proximity, such screening must not be on or near to the boundary as this will reduce light to the neighbouring property. Such screening plans should ensure there is no direct line of sight between plots 3, 4 and 5's windows/doors and the windows of the neighbouring property.
  - ★ In order to preserve the setting of the 14th century grade II listed building, no new access should be created to plot 1 and instead, parking for this property should be provided alongside that for plots 3, 4 and 5 on land at the north west of the site.
  - ★ The Groundsure Report highlights that there is a moderate risk of groundwater flooding and as the run off appears to be to the neighbouring listed property's pond, there is a serious concern that the development will increase the water level in the pond which could flood their listed barn and property. A comprehensive plan (to the satisfaction of the relevant council bodies) to ensure this cannot happen should be provided and implemented.
  - ★ A clear plan for how the foul sewage (which will be substantially increased) will be dealt with should be provided to the satisfaction of the relevant council bodies
  - ★ On the current commercial B&B building there are frosted small windows in the back (southeast side) overlooking the neighbouring property. This new plan has patio doors which will result in a significant loss of privacy to the neighbouring property, given that it is situated at a lower level than the proposed new properties and therefore the new gardens look into both upstairs and downstairs rooms Before approval is considered, the plans should be reconfigured either such that:
    - ○ access to the gardens of plots 3 and 4 is made available through doors on the northeast and southwest ends of the building, not through patio doors on the southeast side which faces the neighbouring property; or,
    - ○ access to the gardens of plots 3 and 4 is through standard doors with glazing no different or larger than that already existing on the southeast side facing the neighbouring property.
  - ★ Given the proximity to a 14th century grade II listed building, the following permitted development rights should be removed:
    - ○ No outbuildings, sheds, walls or fences should be allowed within 5m of the neighbouring property boundary
    - ○ No extensions to the property of any scale permitted on the southeastern side.
    - ○ No external lighting other than motion activated security lighting permitted on the southeastern side
    - ○ No new windows shall be allowed on the southeastern side of the B&B properties, with replacements required to be like-for-like ones to those in the original permission.
    - ○ Tarmacking or other changes to front gardens of plot 1 and 2 to accommodate vehicles prohibited to protect and enhance the street scene.

■ **Update by CCllr James Finch**

Primary school application deadlines are the 15th January. Special Educational Needs units are being developed attached to mainstream schools. Three new dates are arranged for fostering and adoption sessions. The A134 will be closed until the end of the week due to the water leak at Leavenheath.

■ **Highway Requirements**

It was agreed that the meeting with Paul Gant from SCC Highways in December had been very useful. All the concerns had been raised during the walk of the village and Mr Gant had pointed out that SCC had no funds. Cllrs had advised that there were funds available from CIL and other sources to proceed with the main concerns and Mr Gant will look into the feasibility of each point and what the council would need to do to enable them to proceed. His comments will be sent in the New Year.

■ **Jubilee Oak**

It was agreed that Cllr Symonds will look into the costs of a tree guard for the oak and a plaque will be discussed at the next meeting.

■ **Question to the Chair**

a. A quote had been received for the replacement bench on the playground and it was agreed for the clerk to ask for a photo of the proposed bench and to find out if there are any benches proposed as part of the new playground.

b. It was agreed that a convection heater should be purchased for future meetings.

■ **Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting date is Monday 27th January 2020 starting at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Assington Pilates Class

Tuesday evening

7.45-8.45pm

Equipment provided

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Pay as you go class

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I thought that you may be interested to see some parts of the very first Assington News. Below I have copied the front cover page of Issue No 1, dated January 1975.
The bottom right-hand corner shows a picture of the Gurdon Goat, which is the heraldic beast of the Gurdon family; a (rather faded) explanation of this is on page 5 (please see next page). *Editor*

ASSINGTON NEWS

ISSUE No 1 — JANUARY 1975

ALL ABOUT ASSINGTON FOR EVERYONE WHO LIVES IN ASSINGTON, MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD.

Just how full of interest it is will depend on you. I will do my best to keep my eyes and ears open for local news but I shall also depend upon what you tell me.

News for our purpose is things that happen in the village and to you personally. It will be much more personal than anything that you read in commercial newspapers.

If your wife has a baby, that's news. If the W. I. or the Brownies have a meeting, that's news too. But if you want to sell a surplus of cabbage plants or buy a second-hand settee, that's advertising - and it costs you only 10p. for two lines (about 20 words).

This news-magazine does not seek to make money for anyone. At the end of every year we shall publish an income and expenditure account in detail. If we do end up with a small profit, that will go into the funds of The Assington Association, about which you can read on the inside pages.

Some people in the village live off the beaten track and must sometimes feel out of touch, even a little lonely. We hope that Assington News will help a little to make them feel that they belong.

Communication is said to be the answer to almost every human need.
We can but try it.

The Editor

The Organ of The Assington Association
Incorporating St. Edmund's Parish Magazine

The East Anglian Daily Times did us proud on November 29 with a reproduction of our church brasses, rubbed for us by Miss Judith Christian, of Cavendish, for our June Festival, and a magazine page article all about them. Dennis Smith, who has unearthed so much of our village history, was correct in ascribing the brasses to Robert and Letitia Taylboys (c. 1506), but Judith had a lot of fun researching the matter of identity. Judith, by the way, studies brass rubbings from the costume angle.

x x x

Many of us anxiously await the film version of Ronald Blythe's book, "Akenfield". I understand from Lynn Brooks, who fills a leading role in the film, that the West End premiere and the television presentation will be on the same night, some time in January. It should have a special local appeal for several good reasons. The players will be local people with Suffolk accents and the scenes will be genuine Suffolk countryside. There was no script and the film was made on what the industry regards as a shoestring - about £120,000. Lynn is to be congratulated on having been chosen from a large number of competitors for the part.

x x x

Sometime in 1975 it might be a good idea to set up a one-day museum of Assington bygones . I am sure that among the 150 or so houses and cottages in the village there must be a number of curios of all kinds, either found locally or inherited from others who may have come across them. Even I, a newcomer, have dug up several items of interest. Old hand-made bottles, hand-made nails, and a piece of stone bearing part of an inscription, "Assin" were brought to light in 1972 in my garden. I should like to hear from readers what you think of this museum idea and whether you possess anything which you would be prepared to loan so that we can all see some of the treasures of our ancient village and perhaps learn more about those who used to live here.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR W.I.

Another year has begun for the Assington (with Leavenheath) W. I. The Annual Meeting was held in the village hall recently, when reports of the past year's activities were presented. A varied and interesting programme had been achieved and good average attendances maintained.

The Treasurer (Mrs. K. McCurrach) reported a healthy financial situation. Mrs. M. Brooks, a popular and well-loved President for the past three years, resigned from office, although she will continue to serve as a committee member. In recognition she was presented with a Limoges porcelain bowl from the members.

Mrs. A. Mitcham was elected as new President, while Mrs. McCurrach (Treasurer) and Mrs. Walton (Secretary) will continue to serve in those capacities.

The new committee for 1975 is as follows: Mrs. Bertram, Mrs. Brooks, Mrs. Smart, Mrs. McCurrach, Mrs. Walton, Mrs.Dickson, Mrs. Lethbridge.

The programme for 1975 is being planned and, as last year, some of the meetings and outings will be open to non-members. In this way it is hoped to attract more members.

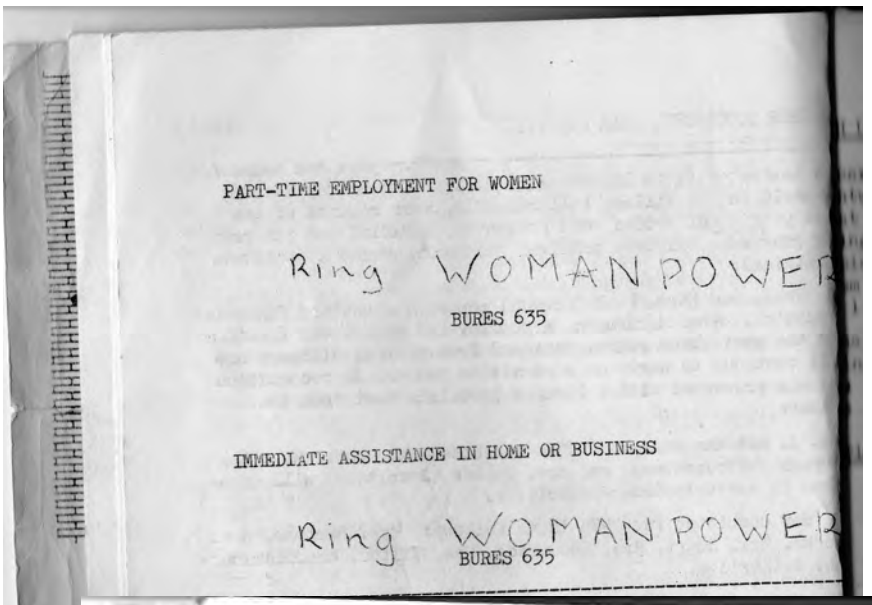
"Given more members,"says the Secretary,"we in W.I. feel that we could make an even greater contribution to the life of the village."

THE GURDON GOAT

The goat is the heraldic beast of the Gurdon family. It is shown climbing a mountain in the family crest, and sometimes depicted with a twig in its mouth. How many Gurdon goats are there in or on Assington buildings? A prize of 50p. will be handed to the first child (under 16) who sends The Editor the longest list by 31st December.

(Muriel Bertram sketched the delightful goat on our front page.)

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A STILL HAPPIER NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS



PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT FOR WOMEN

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This advert 'WOMANPOWER' was on page 6 of the 1975 first Edition of The Assington News. Please note the Ladies Only explanation at the bottom of page 12 (see below).

…….nothing new. ever,……..

Also, don't you love the advertisements? - and the prices!

A D V E R T I S E R S' N E W S

LAST MINUTE XMAS PRESENTS - Watercolours and Oil Paintings (£10 - £25) - Hunters Lodge Gallery, Stoke Rd., Leavenheath (tel. Boxford 210369).

CALL A CAB! - ABC Yellow-Kabs (Colchester 77477) and A Mini-Kabs (Colchester 49777/8/9). Radio controlled private hire service.

SUNBEAM MIXMASTER and Liquidiser (with 2 bowls). Good condition. £10 for quick sale. Tel. Nayland 262273.

HELP AND ADVICE FOR ALL - Try the Citizen's Advice Bureau, Barbara Agnew House, 20a Birketts Lane, Sudbury - or telephone Sudbury 74671. Open every day except Sunday and Christmas week.

TILLEY STORM LANTERN FOR SALE. Cost over £8. Never used. Would accept £7.50.- Mrs. Newton, 20 The Street, Assington.

WANTED - CARS FOR BREAKING. Also used spares for sale for most vehicles.- M.J.M. Carbreakers, Barrack Rd., Assington. Tel. Boxford 210519.

USED CARS FOR SALE: 1970 J4 Van £245, 1970 Cortina 1600 GT £600, 1969 Escort Van £295, 1968 Cortina 1300 Super £325, 1968 Hillman Minx Estate £365, etc., etc.- Assington Garage.

ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION. 2 lines (20 words) 10p personal, 20p. business.

LADIES ONLY The curiosity of many readers will be aroused by the 'Womanpower' advertisement on another page. Mrs. Regina Brook, who has recently opened this agency in Bures, tells me that she keeps a register of ladies who wish to use their own particular skills on a part-time or casual basis. The register covers a wide variety of arts and careers. Your talents can be matched with someone else's needs to your mutual advantage. Why not ring Mrs. Brook (Bures 635) for more information.

SHORT NEWS ITEMS AND REPORTS WANTED EVERY MONTH FOR ASSINGTON NEWS

send them not later than mid-January to -

The Editor, "Whitewebbs", The Street, Assington

(12)

Nick Peasland

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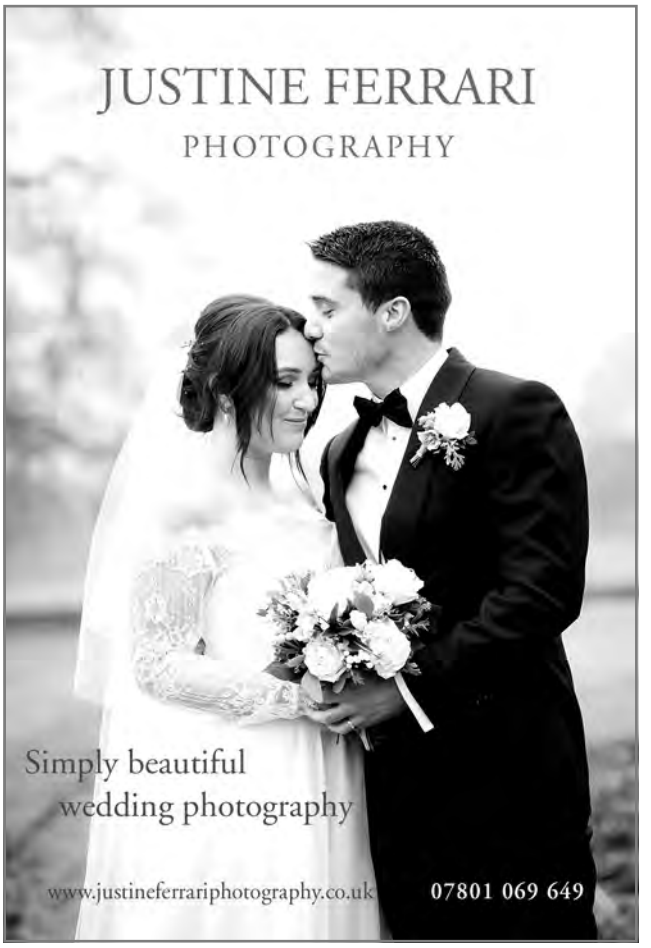

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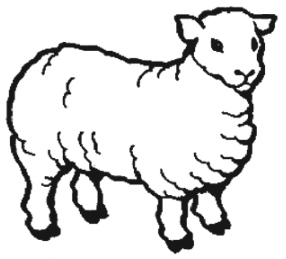

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Gavin, Aaron & the Muttoneers warmly welcome you to the Shoulder of Mutton...

Our bar opening hours are everyday from 12noon – late. We have a pool table, dartboards, jukebox, fruit machine and for all our events please find us on The Shoulder of Mutton, Assington facebook page or visit us to find out more...

Our restaurant is open from Tuesday – Sunday

Lunch is available 12noon – 3pm and we then reopen for our evening service from 6pm – 9pm, all except for Sunday when we open from 12noon – 6pm (pre-booking is advised)

Not forgetting, Fish & Chips Takeaway Fridays...

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"UPBEAT" Glitz & Glam Dance Night

Heart Support to receive cheque

From

Phil and Jacqui Goodyer

What a brilliant night of Big Band music played by "Swing Machine" with lead singer Steve covering some fantastic songs of the 1940's & 1950's on Saturday 28th December. The Delphi Centre sparkled with Art Deco table decorations and Hollywood themed stars. An evening of music started with Mayfair Music playing some great movie tracks while guests arrived and settled into their seating. Dance for all tastes were catered for including two sets of 60's classics from local singer Nettie Osman from Assington. Nettie in her 60's dress complete with long sparkle gloves made the evening into a brilliant party night with her wonderful voice.

The evening raised funds of £741 for "UPBEAT" heart support charity based in Sudbury/Long Melford and Bury St Edmunds; a very big thank you to all who attended and look forward to seeing some of you at our next event :

"Swing into Spring" on Saturday 28th March at The Delphi Centre, with live music from Sarah Mai & The Rhythm Riots and DJ "Baker Boy" See www.dancewithussuffolk.co.uk for details

****

KATH LANE

It was with great sadness that we learned of Kath's passing. Her funeral was held on Friday 17 January in the village church, followed by a cremation.

We hope to be able to print a fuller message of sympathy in the next edition of the Assington News.

VILLAGE CHARITY CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND PROJECT

From Stephen King

In Summer 2017 the Parish Council raised the issue of a lack of play equipment for the children of the village and suggestions were made to use S106 and CIL money to help fund a project to address the problem.

The proposal was taken up by the Village Charity which manages the Village Hall and Playing Field, and in 2018 a group organised by committee member Nigel Finch was set up to research equipment and funding. Two other village residents with small children in their families joined the group and agreed on the type of equipment. Funding was sought from a variety of organisations including Play England, The Big Lottery Fund, Awards for All: UK, Green Space and local supermarkets, without success. The initial target was £30,000.

The first donation came from an exhibition of work from the Assington Group of Artists taught by Belinda King. The Village Charity agreed to manage two Recycling Banks in the Hall car park, from which the Charity receives regular payments earmarked for the Playground Fund. The Parish Council allotted monies from the first CIL received by the village following the recent spate of housing development. The Ryes College held a charity auction at The Shoulder Of Mutton, and the Happy Sounds Community Choir under their conductor Nettie Osman gave a concert in the village hall. Together with a donation from Assington Autos the funds stood at just under £10,000.

In March 2019, I took over the playground funding and approached Babergh District Council. After several meetings and much paperwork the Charity put in bids from Capital Grants and S106 monies for the £20,000 needed to complete the project. The bids were successful and in November the order was put in to Action Play & Leisure Ltd., a company based in Norfolk with 25 years' experience of building playgrounds. Work started on 6th January 2020.

Anonymous donations have been received and promised in order to cover last minute expenses and by the time you read this article the long-awaited playground should be up and running.

We shall announce a Grand Opening Date in the March issue of Assington News.

Many thanks to all those people who donated funds and gave their time to make the playground a reality.

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LEAVENHEATH VILLAGE HALL CINEMA

Judy (12A)

SATURDAY 1 FEBRUARY

Film starts 7.30pm
with 20 minute interval
£3.50 per adult

Reserve your seat online at
www.leavenheath.org.uk
Tel Lesley on 01206 262505
or Ken on 01206 263266

Refreshments available before the film starts and during the interval.

Proceeds towards the LVH Capital Project Fund

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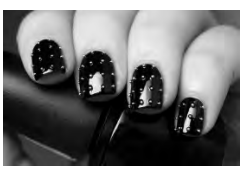

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To book an appointment call **07484 648932** or send an email to **nailsbygrace@btinternet.com**

I look forward to hearing from you.

VILLAGE DIARY 2020

One Saturday per month	Mobile Library in Assington	The Shoulder of Mutton pub, 16.15 – 16.35
Tuesdays	Pilates for beginners	Village Hall 7.45-8.45pm *Anna Clayton 07811229266*
Wednesdays	Paper Kite Yoga	Village Hall, 7.30pm-9pm *Sophia Howard 313662 or 07968 165185*
Thursdays	Happy Sounds Community Choir	Village Hall, 6.00-7.45pm *Nettie Osman 07957 395780*
Mon & Wed	Art Classes	Village Hall, 10 - 3 *Belinda King – 210932, to go on the waiting list.*

February

1	7.30pm Leavenheath Cinema: Judy (12A)	L'heath V Hall 01206262505
2	10.30am Benefice Communion at **Bures**	Bures St Mary's Church
6	9.30 - 11.00am Baby and Toddler Group	Village Hall
8	9.30am - 1pm Long Melford's Farmers Market	Village Hall Long Melford
9	10.30am Holy Communion	Assington, St Edmund's Church
16	10.30am Family Service	Assington, St Edmund's Church
23	10.30 Morning Worship	Assington, St Edmund's Church
26	10.00am - 1.30pm Lavenham's Farmers Market	Lavenham Village Hall
27	9.30 - 11.00am Baby and Toddler Group	Village Hall
28	9.30am - 2pm Sudbury's Farmers Market	St Peter's Church Sudbury
29	10.30am Benefice Communion	Little Cornard, All Saints Church

The Assington News is published by The Assington Association – a charity largely supported by **donations,** for which we are always most grateful**,** *thank you so much* :
Bank Account no 01345159, sort code 30 98 31
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Editor: Bronwen Stacey, 01787 210354. Email: bronwenstacey@btinternet.com
All contributions are welcomed, whether stories, poems or personal news e.g. weddings or birth, though we reserve editorial discretion as to their acceptability for publication
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DEADLINE for COPY: 15th of the month prior to the month you wish your submission to be printed

The Crown Stoke by Nayland, is our privately owned village Inn with a reputation for making everyone feel welcome. We simply have a passion for good service, food, wine and real ale.

That's enough of what we say this is what our critics say:

"Traditional dishes with a modern twist.....fresh, contemporary feel inside, this is a classy modern-day inn set in a pretty village within easy reach of Constable country" ***The Good Food Guide***

"the food at the crown is delectable.....and the wine list is dreamy" ***London Evening Standard***

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